

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The invention relates to~~ Disclosed is a system for immobilizing two vertebrae, ~~the-which~~ system ~~comprising~~ includes two screws, and an elongated connecting member and two fastening systems. Each fastening system ~~comprises~~ includes a clamping member⁽³⁾ and a fastening member (28) consisting of a single ring-shaped piece having a lateral wall (34) around an axial passage. (36), ~~said~~ The wall ~~including~~ includes a first aperture (38) for the clamping member and a second aperture (40) comprising a first portion (46) and a second portion (48). The first portion (46) has a rim (50) forming a bearing surface for the screw head. The second portion (48) provides a free passage for the screw head. ~~Said~~ The axial passage can receive one end of the connecting member and the screw head, whereby (a) the screw head can be freely inserted into the axial passage of the fastening member and (b) the end of the connecting member and the screw head are immobilized by actuating the clamping member.

Please delete lines 32-35 on page 16:

~~Translation of the title and abstract as they were when originally filed by the Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2 and/or 48.3.~~